

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-15 ISO-00 L-03 INT-08 OMB-01

TAR-02 SPC-03 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

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R 121345Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2039

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O.11652 NA

TAGS ETRD EMIN TUNGSTEN

SUBJ UNCTAD: TUNGSTEN

REF STATE 198646

1. CHINA (FORMERLY ROC) HAS BEEN MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN BUT NOT MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP (WG). SECRETARIAT INVITED PRC ATTEND EIGHTH SESSION OF WG IN 1972 IN EFFORT INTEREST PRC MORE DEEPLY IN UNCTAD AND IN HOPE OF OBTAINING INFORMATION ON CHINESE TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION AND TRADE. PRC DID NOT ATTEND WG.

2. PRC HAS INFORMED SECRETARIAT IT WISHES ASSUME SEAT OF CHINA ON COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN, WHICH HAS FIXED MEMBERSHIP OF 29 MEMBERS.

3. PARTICIPATION IN INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS UNDER
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RES 7(VII) OF COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES IS OPEN TO ALL

MEMBERS OF UNCTAD. PRC TOLD SECRETARIAT IT WISHES
ATTEND TUNGSTEN CONSULTATIONS AS OBSERVER.

4. PRC HAS THUS FAR NOT HAD ANY SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE
ON UNCTAD. CHINESE STATEMENTS ARE USUALLY STEROTYPED
AND SOMETIMES HIGHLY POLITICAL IN CONTENT. APPRECIABLE
INTEREST AND SOMEWHAT ACTIVE ROLE TAKEN AT LAST MEETING
ON CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES BUT
WE UNDERSTAND THIS WAS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO APPEAL BY
MEXICAM PRESIDENT WHEN HE VISITED PEKING. USUAL LINE
TAKEN ON SPECIFIC UNCTAD ISSUES IS STATEMENT OF GENERAL SUPPORT
FOR BASIC PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES SOUGHT BY DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES. TUNGSTEN IS FIRST SPECIFIC ISSUE AND FIRST
COMMODITY QUESTION TO BE CONSIDERED IN UNCTAD IN WHICH
PRC HAS POTENTIAL STAKE AS IMPORTANT PRODUCER AND
EXPORTER. THESE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE INCIDENTALLY
REASON FOR HIGH LEVEL UNCTAD SECRETARIAT INTEREST
IN SUBJECT (SEE GENEVA 659). HOWEVER SECRETARIAT HAS NOT
BEEN ABLE ASCERTAIN CHINESE VIEWS ON MEETING AND HAS YET
TO OBTAIN SUBMISSION OF DATA FOR UNCTAD PUBLICATION ON
QUARTERLY TUNGSTEN STATISTICS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES PRC
ROLE CANNOT BE PREDICTED WITH ANY CERTAINTY. IF PAST
PERFORMANCE IS ANY GUIDE, CHINESE ARE LIKELY TO BE
CAUTIOUS AND USE FIRST PHASE OF CONSULTATIONS TO ASSESS
OVERALL SITATUION AND EFFECT ON THEIR INTERESTS.

5. AS TO FOOTNOTE, WE HAVE CALLED MISTAKEN USE OF
WORD NEGOTIATIONS TO ATTENTION OF SECRETARIAT AND SUGGESTED
THAT IN FUTURE PROPER TERM CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE USED.
HOWEVER, RECORD IS CLEAR AND ALL GROUPS ACCEPT FACT THAT
RES 7(VII) OF COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES INVOLVES CON-
SULTATIONS AND NOT NEGOTIATIONS (E.G. SEE NIGERIAN STATE-
MENT PARA 5 GENEVA 4851). WE THEREFORE BELIEVE UNNECESSARY
MAKE MORE OF AN ISSUE OVER FOOTNOTE.BASSIN

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